



Neighborhood Parks Plan

Hume Springs Park

Community Feedback, Fall 2014



The Division of Park Planning, Design, and Capital Development is currently planning for the City's existing Neighborhood Parks, which we characterize as being 0.5 - 10 acres with a service area of up to 0.5 miles. The results of this plan will help determine budgeting priorities and recommendations for both short and long-term incremental improvements, ensuring that neighborhood parks serve Alexandria's needs now and into the future.

In Fall 2014, Staff collected community feedback to understand how the Park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey, community workshop, and "graffiti board" in the park. Over 270 people responded to the survey in total, ten of which were specific to Hume Springs Park.

In 10 years I would like this Park to...

(top 3 rankings shown; based on a weighted score)

1. Be a place to create social connections with neighbors
2. Be a safe place for children to explore
3. Be a place to relax

What would you like done with the hard surface area?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	2	29%
Enhance it	3	42%
Transform it	2	29%

Explain
Repave walkway (x2)
Way too many types of hard surface, uneven

What would you like done with the hill?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	1	14%
Enhance it	1	14%
Transform it	5	72%

Explain
Remove
Can we make this into usable space? maybe a sandbox or more play area?
Ends in a concrete culvert!
The Hill is mostly avoided
There is often broken glass and litter here, and the drainage also means that it is not fit for many purposes.

What would you like done with the Playground?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	1	14%
Enhance it	5	72%
Transform it	1	14%

Explain
It's 20 years out of date
The playground could be modernized, with a soft surface and a structure that would accommodate a larger range of ages.
I think the entire park could be enhanced to create a more open and friendlier environment. I think adding some more physical play items or even better, some exercise components to the park for the adults and the kids could make it more useful to the community and more linked to the community center - they could have Yoga in the park. etc.

What would you like done with the fence?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	1	14%
Enhance it	1	14%
Transform it	5	71%

Explain
It would be more attractive to have a lower, wooden fence.
Replace with lower, more attractive fencing, especially along Dale and W Reed
Please, please get new fencing. It's like a prison in there!
I'm not sure the fence currently achieves any goal. What is its purpose and does it help or hinder the community?

What would you like done with the seating?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	0	0%
Enhance it	5	71%
Transform it	2	29%

Explain
More benches, please
Perhaps a picnic table for food. There's currently only one bench. (x2)
There's one bench! Fear of homeless sleeping there

How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	8	100%
Bike (personal)	0	0%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	0	0%
Drive	0	0%
Public Transit	0	0%
Carpool	0	0%

How far do you typically travel to visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Less than 1/2 mile	7	87%
Between 1/2 mile to 1 mile	1	13%
Between 1-2 miles	0	0%
Over 2 miles	0	0%

What is currently NOT in the Park that you would like to see there?

Response

A soft surface under the playground area.

Drinking fountain

Sandbox!

Updated play equipment.

More level areas for play and relaxation

Seating water fountain trash containers plantings soft surfaces for children equipment!!!

A greater connection to the community center and the community. This is often a nice, quiet place and I think you could have more opportunities for social things that bring the community together, like yoga. I would also like to see more apparatus, particularly that could be used by both adults and children.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Park?

Response

It's a disaster - a poor reflection on Alex such a nice location - could be so good! There is almost always broken glass in the grassy areas, and as a result, I have generally stopped taking my child there.

This is a nice shady park area that could be greatly enhanced to make better use of the space for children to play in the afternoons when other playgrounds are often too hot.

The sewage areas are not well constructed and children are often playing around and digging around them. Mosquitos and other bugs are attracted and that makes the park less conducive to visits. Also, I think the community police could swing by more often, particularly on Sunday mornings and in the evenings to make their presence felt. The open/closed times seem meaningless as the park gate is always open. The fence is probably important for the adjoining residential properties, but it is unclear what value it adds to the front and back (street) sides of the property.

My civic association holds events here and could use more seating, attractive landscaping, and level area.

Have any of the following circumstances prevented you from visiting this Park? (check all that apply)

Value	Count	Percent
I am physically limited from walking	0	0%
There is no pedestrian/bike friendly access to the park from where I live	0	0%
I have concerns about crime or personal safety	1	33%
There is not enough parking	0	0%
There is nothing in the Park that interests me	3	100%

How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	1	12%
Weekly	5	63%
Monthly	2	25%
Yearly	0	0%

Comments from Community Workshop held on October 25, 2014

- Preserve see-saw
- Provide additional swings in playground
- Modular structure used as 'hang-out'
- Provide more benches throughout entire park
- Transform fence
- The use of hill/mound is not clear
- Storm drains are not safe
- Provide more gathering space for adults/neighborhood groups throughout the park
- Enhance landscaping
- Enhance or make asphalt area safer

Graffiti Sign

A "graffiti sign" in the Park had a marker attached and asked park users to write down what they would like their park to look like in the future. The sign was on site from September to November 2014 (image from October 27).

